

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-7 and 9-22 are pending in the application. Claim 8 was previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 2, 14, and 19 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments may be found in the specification at least at paragraphs [0014]-[0015] and [0017]-[0018]. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-22 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-22, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0035471 to Pitsoulakis et al. ("Pitsoulakis"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,823,480 ("Brown"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown do not disclose or suggest visually indicating an accessibility of an information service at a second location of a modem when a user of the modem is authorized to have access to the information service, as in claim 1.

In contrast to claim 1, Pitsoulakis discloses a modem with an indicator light to indicate a connection and indicator lights showing an amount of activity on the connection. Pitsoulakis, [0034]. The cited portions of Pitsoulakis do not disclose or suggest indicating accessibility based on whether the user of the modem is authorized to access an information service. In Pitsoulakis, activity is indicated without regard to whether the user is authorized to access the information service. Thus, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis do not disclose or suggest visually indicating an accessibility of an information service at a second location of a modem when the user of the modem is authorized to have access to the information service, as in claim 1.

In further contrast to claim 1, Brown discloses a modem in communication with a Cable TV (CATV) provider. An LED indicates when there is a connection between the two. Brown,

col. 4, ll. 44-55. The cited portions of Brown do not disclose or suggest indicating accessibility based on whether the user of the modem is authorized to access an information service. In Brown, a connection is indicated without regard to whether the user is authorized to access the information service. Thus, the cited portions of Brown do not disclose or suggest visually indicating an accessibility of an information service at a second location of a modem when the user of the modem is authorized to have access to the information service, as in claim 1.

Therefore, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-13, and 22 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1. Further, the dependent claims recite additional elements not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown.

For example, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown fail to disclose or suggest utilizing a second light emitting diode to indicate accessibility based on whether a user of a modem is authorized to have access to an information service, as in claim 2. For at least this additional reason, claim 2 is allowable.

The cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 14. For example, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown do not disclose or suggest a data detection mechanism operable to output an access signal in response to a recognition that a remote information service is accessible from a broadband modem unit when a user of a system is authorized to access the remote information service, as in claim 14.

In contrast to claim 14, Pitsoulakis discloses a modem with an indicator light to indicate a connection and indicator lights showing an amount of activity on the connection. Pitsoulakis, [0034]. The cited portions of Pitsoulakis do not disclose or suggest outputting an access signal when a user is authorized to access the remote information service. Thus, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis do not disclose or suggest a data detection mechanism operable to output an access signal in response to a recognition that a remote information service is accessible from a broadband modem unit when a user of a system is authorized to access the remote information service, as in claim 14.

In further contrast to claim 14, Brown discloses a modem in communication with a Cable TV (CATV) provider. An LED indicates when there is a connection between the two. Brown, col. 4, ll. 44-55. The cited portions of Brown do not disclose or suggest a data detection mechanism operable to output an access signal in response to a recognition that a remote information service is accessible from a broadband modem unit when a user of a system is authorized to access the remote information service, as in claim 14.

Therefore, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 14. Hence, claim 14 is allowable. Claims 15-18 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 14.

The cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 19. For example, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown do not disclose or suggest indicating whether a broadband modem has access to a remote information service node based on whether a user of the modem is authorized to access the remote information service, as in claim 19.

In contrast to claim 19, Pitsoulakis discloses a modem with an indicator light to indicate a connection and indicator lights showing an amount of activity on the connection. Pitsoulakis, [0034]. The cited portions of Pitsoulakis do not disclose or suggest indicating whether a broadband modem has access to a remote information service node based on whether a user of the modem is authorized to access the remote information service, as in claim 19.

In further contrast to claim 19, Brown discloses a modem in communication with a Cable TV (CATV) provider. An LED indicates when there is a connection between the two. Brown, col. 4, ll. 44-55. The cited portions of Brown do not disclose or suggest indicating whether a broadband modem has access to a remote information service node based on whether a user of the modem is authorized to access the remote information service, as in claim 19.

Therefore, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 19. Hence, claim 19 is allowable. Claims 20-21 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 19.

Claim 4 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 4, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Pitsoulakis, in view of Brown, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,022 (“Hartmaier”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1. As explained above, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. The cited portions of Hartmaier fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Pitsoulakis and Brown. For example, the cited portions of Hartmaier fail to disclose or suggest visually indicating an accessibility of an information service at a second location of a modem when a user of the modem is authorized to have access to the information service, as in claim 1. In contrast to claim 1, Hartmaier discloses determining if a subscriber is authorized to access a network. Hartmaier, col. 5, ll.21-36. The cited portions of Hartmaier fail to disclose or suggest providing a visual indication at a modem when a user of the modem is authorized to have access to an information service. Therefore, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Hartmaier, individually or in combination, fail to disclose at least one element of claim 1, from which claim 4 depends. Hence, claim 4 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the references applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

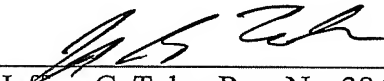
Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

6-19-2009
Date


Jeffrey G. Toler, Reg. No. 38,342
Attorney for Applicants
TOLER LAW GROUP, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTIES
8500 Bluffstone Cove, Suite A201
Austin, Texas 78759
(512) 327-5515 (phone)
(512) 327-5575 (fax)